Preparing for Severe Winds

To help protect your home during a hurricane or severe wind storm:

- Close doors and windows on the side facing the maximum wind force. Lock windows so wind vibrations won't open them.

- Brace large windows on the inside, or cover them outside with boards or plywood. Nail all exterior covering to the reinforced part of the window frame. Improperly supported exterior coverings will cause as much or more damage than no protection.

- Pull curtains and drapes over unprotected glass areas. This could prevent injury from flying glass if the window is broken.

- Make sure drains in exterior stairwells and all rainspouts are open. Clogged rainspouts or drains could cause basement flooding. If necessary, place extensions on downspouts to carry water away from foundations.

- If your home is not equipped with stormproof door sills, place folded towels along the joint between the bottom of doors and the sill to prevent water from being blown under doors.

- Bring inside all small yard items, including potted plants, ornaments, wind chimes, wreathes, etc. High winds can pick up these items and turn them into dangerous missiles.

- Bring lawn furniture, bicycles and light-weight outdoor equipment inside if at all possible. If they can not be brought inside, lay them on the ground and stake them down securely.